



Making Tracks
 Missouri Department of Conservation
 2360 Hwy D
 St. Charles, MO 63304
www.conservation.state.mo.us

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 MO DEPT OF CONSERVATION



August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area
Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
Rockwoods Reservation



Making Tracks

May 2003 Volume 03, Number 5

IMAGINE

By Irv Logan, Community Outreach Specialist

Imagine what it must have been like... the sights, the sounds, and the smells.... How would you describe them to someone who had not experienced them? How would you contain your excitement as you attempted to convey the many awesome experiences? As I read from the journals of Lewis and Clark these questions and many others constantly caused my mind to wander from the text.

On November 16, 1803, the Lewis and Clark Expedition saw the Louisiana Territory for the first time, across the mighty Mississippi River at its confluence with the Ohio River near the present-day city of Cairo, Illinois. They first landed in the Louisiana Territory at Bird's Point, an American expatriate community inhabited by Europeans, Africans, Shawnee and Delaware Natives.

On November 20, 1803, the Expedition entered the Mississippi and must have pulled extra hard on the oars as they passed the primordial lowland forest known as Tywappity Bottom. The size and scope of the flora must have been utterly impressive. I can imagine the canebrakes along the river bank providing quite a sight and a good deal of noise as they swayed in the breeze.

On November 23, 1803, Lewis stopped in Cape Girardeau. I can imagine he enjoyed a great meal, in the Spanish tradition, at the home of Louis Lorimier, Spanish commandant of the Cape Girardeau District. I can smell the robust co-mingled aromas and taste the various flavors of the table, undoubtedly a mix, like the mingled cultures in the district at the time.

The Expedition left Missouri on July 18, 1804. By then they had already recorded an animal they didn't know, the Eastern wood rat. Little did they know what amazing discoveries lay over the next hill.

Can you imagine the Expedition's frustration on a cold November day in 1804, as they tried to "root" a prairie dog out of its burrow to see what it looked like? I wonder what they discussed when they saw the strange lights in the northern sky that cold November night in 1804.

They never discovered the source of the rifle-like reports heard deep in the Rockies on June 20, 1805. I venture to guess it was the "head-banging ritual" of the big horn sheep. They didn't report seeing one, but the big horn sheep was there as they are today.

The number of plants recorded by the Expedition is very large. The diversity is too great to attempt to cover in this article. However, what can be said is many of the plants had medicinal properties known only to the Native people. Indeed, several times during the adventure, the Expedition treated illnesses with their new-found knowledge. One can only wonder, today, if there are hidden nuggets of medical knowledge yet to be discovered in the reading of the journals.

As you read through this issue of *Making Tracks*, you'll read our naturalist's observations of sounds, tastes and sights in the natural world. Their stories are a continuation of the vision that was started more than 200 years ago. We thank you for your support as we continue that vision.

Making Tracks

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Thanks for all your effort and help!

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Judy Rowe.....1900 hours
 Linda Lopez.....200 hours

Rockwoods Reservation

Robin Gavlick....1000 hours
 LaVerne Koyn....1000 hours
 Mary Demmitt.....800 hours

Powder Valley **Nature Center**

Neva Wasson.....3600 hours
 Warene Anderson..3400 hours
 Tom O'Gorman.....2600 hours
 Audry Kadlec.....1500 hours
 Mary Piotraschke..1400 hours
 Paula Lee.....900 hours
 Shirley Fitzgibbons.800 hours
 Bill Heady.....700 hours
 Charlie Gentry.....500 hours
 Suzanne Goette.....300 hours
 Nathan Boswell.....200 hours
 Jeff Wolf.....200 hours

News from

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

SOUND By Colleen Scott, Naturalist

Imagine, if you will, a young naturalist leading her first night hike. Setting out on the path, she wonders, “What will we see tonight? Glowworms? Orb weavers? Bats?”

The children wonder also, for they’ve never experienced a hike like this one. Little do they know what really waits in the wooded darkness. But as the moonlight turns to shadow, they will soon learn.

“What was zat?!” The naturalist felt a small, trembling hand reach for hers. She listened, but could not be sure. It was a peculiar sound, yet somehow vaguely familiar. She had not heard that sound since childhood.

“I’m not sure. It could be a....” The naturalist hesitated.

“Whaddya mean yur not shur? Yur da’ amina lady! Yur spouse ta’ know evvrything!”

Laughter from parents burst the air. And, as I looked at the children’s curious moonlit expressions, I had to laugh too. “I believe that little ‘cheet, cheet’ was a flying squirrel. Let’s see if we hear it again.” We didn’t hear a sound from that squirrel the rest of the night.

If you think about it, sound or the lack thereof, is amazing. It will evoke any number of human responses from curiosity or fear to joy or peace. So, how do other animals respond to sound? In several studies, researchers have played back tape recordings to various species of male and female frogs to see how they respond. In ponds where more than one type of frog breeds, females are able to identify and find males of their own species.

Birds, on the other hand, don’t need to sound like themselves to attract a mate. According to *The Birder’s Handbook*, research studies indicate that an increased repertoire like that of a mockingbird or starling may improve its ability to attract a mate.

Still, despite all of the studies, no one can say with complete certainty why animals make the sounds they do. Animal sounds are so numerous and diverse that humans can’t help but develop more theories than there are sounds.

Take the jump-yip of the prairie dog, for instance. (It’s just as it sounds. The prairie dog jumps on its hind feet, throws its little head back and yips.) Some animal behaviorists believe that this is an “all clear” signal while others interpret the sound as “danger approaching.”

Although we humans will never fully understand the natural world, we do have the ability to experience it with any one or all five of our senses. So, I’m not going to write about “the fact” that coyotes howl to find each other, to establish territories or just for the fun of it. The only thing I’m going to say is, whether your fear is the dark of night or not getting the house cleaned, never pass up a chance to experience the natural world. Imagine, if you will, your senses activated...



11715 Cragwold Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 301 - 1500

LOCATION:

From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road.

AREA HOURS:

Daylight Saving Time:
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Central Standard Time:
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Open all year, 7 days a week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

GIFT SHOP HOURS:

Open all year, 7 days a week, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ABOUT THE AREA:

112 acres of forestland and winding creeks, three hiking trails (one wheelchair accessible). Open to visitors free of charge.

SSSSSSnakes of Missouri

7 p.m. - 8 p.m. Friday, May 9

Of the 50 or so kinds of snakes found in Missouri, quite a few live in the greater St. Louis area. Most are non-venomous, many are beneficial and all are interesting. This special evening program will feature guest speaker Tom R. Johnson, retired state herpetologist. He has a way of making snake biology interesting, entertaining and special for the whole family.

Live snakes will be on display after Tom’s presentation. Tom will also be on hand to answer questions and to sign his book, *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Missouri*, which will be available for purchase at the Gift Shop. Reservations will begin April 25. Call (314) 301-1500.



The Educators’ Niche

By Liz Lyons, Conservation Education Consultant

Summer Workshops

School’s almost out, which means it’s time to start planning your summer break. For teachers who love to learn, there is no better way to spend your time off than by taking our exciting, engaging and constructive educator workshops!

The Missouri Department of Conservation offers many different educator workshops right in the St. Louis area. Most of our workshops are free of charge, though there is a required \$25 deposit fee. This fee will be returned to you upon arrival the first day of your workshop. If you desire college credit, the cost is \$60 per credit hour.

June

Connecting Children’s Books & Conservation

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
June 10 – 12; 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily
Call Liz Lyons, (314) 231-3803

Ecology of Missouri Plants & Animals

Rockwoods Reservation
June 17 – 19; 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily
Call David Bruns, (636) 458-2236 x 35

Animal Adaptations & Behavior

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center & St. Louis Zoo
June 24 – 26; times vary
Call Jim Jordan, (314) 781-0900 x 340

Using the Outdoors as a Classroom

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area
June 24 – 27; 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily
Call Nancy Snider, (636) 441-4554 x 245

For more workshop details and other statewide workshops, visit our website at www.conservations.state.mo.us

BUSCH RANGE

Hours for May 2003:

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday-Monday

2 p.m. - 8 p.m. Tuesday

Closed Wednesday & Thursday

For more information, call (636) 441-4554 ext. 251

SUMMER HOURS!

SUMMER HOURS!

HENGES RANGE

Hours for May 2003:

2 p.m. - 8 p.m. Wednesday

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday

Closed Monday & Tuesday, Special Events & Holidays

For more information, call (636) 938-9548

the Outdoor Teacher



The Outdoor Teacher Education Resource Center

Hours:

Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(closed 11 a.m. - Noon for lunch)

1926 S. 12th St.

St. Louis, MO 63104
(314) 231-3803

July

Scouting the Daniel Boone Home

Daniel Boone Home near Defiance, Missouri
July 8 – 10; 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily
Call Nancy Snider, (636) 441-4554 x 245

Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, Project WET*

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
July 15 – 17; 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily
Call Barb Sandhagen, (314) 301-1500 x 2242

Lewis & Clark & the Big River Confluence

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
July 22 – 24; 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily
Call David Bruns, (636) 458-2236 x 35

Forest Park Voyagers Teachers’ Academy*

Forest Park in St. Louis City
July 23 – August 1; 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. daily
Call Lee Anna Good, (314) 367-7275

*Additional fees apply.



Resident Artisans

Patricia and Lee Schulte

Pressed Flower and Herb Workshops

Saturday, May 10, 2003

Powder Valley is pleased to welcome back Patricia and Lee Schulte. The Schultes have been conducting workshops at Powder Valley for several years. As in the past, workshop participants will learn the techniques and art of pressing and drying flowers and herbs. Don’t miss this opportunity to enjoy an hour with our charming Resident Artisans, Patricia and Lee Schulte, and take home a lovely decorated item. Reservations are required and begin April 25.

Workshops

10 to 11 a.m.

Children ages 7 to 15 can learn about pressed flowers and make a Mother’s Day card for someone special.

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Adults will learn how to press and dry flowers and herbs and take a pressed flower item home.

May Gift Shop Special

The Missouri Department of Conservation’s gift shops are featuring *Missouri Wildflowers* during the month of May. This is an excellent book for nature lovers. It provides detailed descriptions, photographs and illustrations of wildflowers that grow in Missouri. This special offers a 20% savings on the publication’s retail price. The special price will be \$9.60. No additional discounts apply.

Get a copy today!

News from
August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

Improving Pond Habitat for Better Fishing (Part 2)

By Sarah J. Oakes, Fisheries Biologist

A good fishing pond requires good cover for small fish and aquatic insects. Without the necessary habitat, aquatic insect populations will not thrive and young fish will be vulnerable to predation. An unbalanced predator/prey relationship results, making life hard on all the residents of your pond. Part one of this series discussed the role of brushy habitat in the pond ecosystem; now, on to the second type of habitat – aquatic vegetation.

Vegetative cover can be a little tricky, but the benefits are well worth the effort. Providing vegetative cover is sometimes as effortless as simply **not** eradicating the plants already present in your pond. Many pond owners believe that the only good aquatic plant is a dead aquatic plant, and strive to maintain a “weed-free” pond, often at a huge financial expense. It is true that many aquatic plants are aggressive and can reach nuisance levels very quickly. The key is to establish plant species that are slow to spread or limited by water depth. Pickerelweed, arrowhead, padderdock and vallisneria are several species that are highly recommended as easily managed aquatic plants. A good goal is to have 20 percent of the pond bottom covered with vegetation. Besides providing habitat, aquatic plants help minimize shoreline erosion, work to limit algae growth by using nutrients in the water, and offer beautiful foliage and flowers that will be welcomed even in subdivision ponds where aesthetics are the priority.

Before you decide to purchase any aquatic plants for your fishing pond, make sure they will be compatible with your situation. If you already have nuisance vegetation, you may need to resolve that condition before trying to establish “good” vegetation. Also, most desirable aquatic plants are favorite foods of grass carp. If grass carp are already present in your pond, you will want to get rid of them before spending money on plants that would otherwise serve only as grazing material.

To find out more about habitat projects for your pond, contact the St. Louis Regional Office and ask for any or all of the following publications: *Fishing in a Barrel*, *Aquatic Briar Patch*, and *Water Plants for Missouri Ponds*, or talk to your local MDC pond biologist about specific recommendations for your pond.

“You’re as Blind as a Mole!”

By Ben Pursley, Naturalist

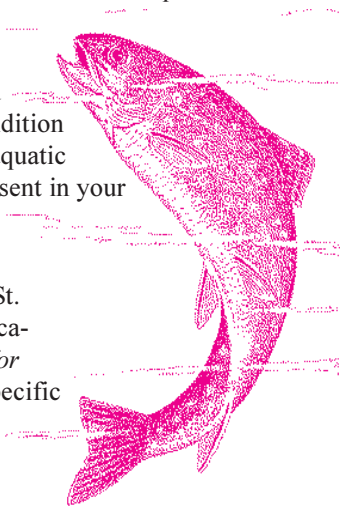
Have you ever heard the expression “You’re as blind as a bat”? Well, whoever started that phrase doesn’t know much about bats, because bats can see. The expression should be “You’re as blind as a mole.”

The Eastern mole, Missouri’s only native mole, spends almost its entire life underground, and as you can imagine, it’s dark down there. Most mole species can only use their sight to distinguish light from darkness. To survive, they rely on their senses of touch and smell to navigate, find food and find other moles.

Moles have very fine hairs on their front and hind feet that aid them in excavating and navigating through their tunnels. They use these hairs in a similar fashion that visually impaired persons would use a cane to navigate through their environment. Moles also use their tails to feel their way through tunnels when traveling backwards. This is kind of like a rearview mirror in a car.

Moles also depend heavily on their sense of smell. Moles feed primarily on other animals such as earthworms, grub worms, insect larva, adult insects and sometimes the occasional small snake or rodent. To find their food, moles sniff them out, not unlike a bloodhound following the trail of a criminal. Moles are solitary animals and when the mating season occurs in the spring, these mammals use scent glands to announce their presence. During this season male moles will actively seek females by following their scent trails.

Even though moles are “as blind as a bat,” or should I say, “as blind as a mole,” their extraordinary senses of touch and smell help them to not only survive in their environment but to thrive in it.



**2360 Highway D
St. Charles, MO
63304
(636) 441 - 4554**

LOCATION:

From Hwy 40, take 94 south to Hwy. D; turn west on D for approx. 1 mile.
From I-70, take 94/First Capitol exit; turn south on Hwy. 94 to Hwy. D; turn west on D for approx. 1 mile. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy. D.

HOURS:

Area is open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. See area regulations for special hunt hours. Fishing hours are from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. Rental boats are available April 1 through September 30. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. It is closed some state holidays.

ABOUT THE AREA:

6,987 acres with 32 lakes and 40 ponds totaling 526 acres of water for fishing. There are six viewing blinds (two are wheelchair accessible), seven hiking trails totaling 5 miles, picnic area, staffed firearms range, and fishing jetties (some are wheelchair accessible). The area has interpretive programs, exhibits and demonstration sites and is used by bicyclists.

News from
Rockwoods Reservation

Dining with the Corps of Discovery

By Keri Lanning, Naturalist

Grab your dinner plates, steak knives and a healthy appetite if you plan on eating Lewis and Clark style. This group of explorers may well have been the first to practice the now popular Atkins diet by consuming nine pounds of meat per person a day! They certainly did not have to worry about their carbohydrate intake! I guess you work up a healthy appetite pulling a 55-foot keel boat filled with supplies up the Missouri River.

Before leaving port at Wood River, Illinois, on May 14, 1804, Captain Meriwether Lewis and Co-Captain William Clark had furnished the crew with barrels of whiskey, corn, flour, salt, pork, hogs’ lard, coffee, beans and biscuits. The rest of their diet was supplemented by whatever they could hunt, fish, gather or trade. Their mission led them across unfamiliar and uncharted territory encountering new wildlife and plants. It is no wonder most of their diet consisted of meat, because many of the plants they saw were not familiar to them and could cause indigestion. Both Lewis and Clark were good at journaling what game and plants they consumed. By looking at these journals we know what native species we would have seen on their menu.

For dinner we could expect to see an appetizer of crawfish followed by a tossed salad of wild onions, thistle, watercress and acorns. For the main course, you’d have a choice of deer, bear, wolf, beaver, buffalo, otter and badger or maybe a rotisserie squirrel, rabbit or prairie dog. All meat was seasoned by open campfire. Perhaps fowl would be of interest. You could choose from turkey, geese, prairie chicken, ducks, eagles, turkey vultures, quail or hawks. Fish for the evening would be catfish, bass, sunfish or sturgeon. All entrees were served with cattail or barreled rations. For dessert you could have a fruit medley of persimmons, papaws, gooseberries, strawberries, wild berries and wild grapes. Your meal, of course, is washed down with an ample amount of whiskey.

It is interesting to note that on the western portion of their journey between Weippe Prairie, Idaho, and the Pacific Coast, the men dined almost exclusively on dog! Although it is one of the most productive salmon fisheries areas, the men found they could not digest fish and seafood well and found that trading and eating dog was much easier on the belly.

One would think that with a diet like this the men may have experienced some intestinal difficulties, but they came prepared. In preparation for the trip Lewis studied medicine with a renowned doctor of the time, Dr. Rush. Dr. Rush supplied Lewis with pills to help purge the system, which the men kindly referred to as “Rush’s Thunderbolts.”

Although the mainstay of their diet was meat, plants did play an important role not only in their diet but also medicinally. If you would like to learn more about the wild edible and medicinal plants of the Lewis and Clark journey, join us May 15 for our program or stop by the classroom and visit our monthly display.



Ask the Naturalist

Question: How does the stink get in a skunk?

Bobby Wonder, age 10, Eureka

Answer: Skunks have two glands or body organs that produce an oily, smelly substance called musk. Located on each side of a skunk’s anus, the glands contain about a tablespoon of the powerful liquid, which is enough “ammunition” for five or six sprayings. When threatened by a predator, a skunk will stamp its front feet, lean forward, raise its tail and take aim with two nipples connected to these glands. Strong muscles surrounding the glands and nipples allow the skunk to shoot a misty, stinky stream of oil up to 20 feet. In general, skunks are reluctant to spray, and it is almost always an act of self-defense. Skunks usually give other warnings, such as stamping their feet, hissing or walking with their tails in the air, before they resort to spraying.

How to register for a MAY program

Reservations are required unless otherwise specified. Reservations will be taken Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Programs are intended for individuals and families only. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel your reservation as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Please limit requests to two programs per month, with only one to include an Ages 3-6 program. **Please be prompt. Arrival after 10 minutes may exclude you from the program.** Interpreting services are available for people with hearing loss, with five days advance notice.

ROCKWOODS

For reservations, call (636) 458 - 2236



15 After School Special: Lewis and Clark Wild Edible and Medicinal Plants

Thursday 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
(Ages 7-12) Join us as we discover the wild plants Lewis and Clark used as wild edibles and medicinal plants. Dress for a hike and come with an adventurous appetite. (Reservations begin May 1.)

17 Pond Exploration

Saturday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(All Ages) Find out what lives in a pond. We will sample the creatures that live underwater and learn about their life cycles. Dress for the weather and be prepared to get dirty! Part of this trail is not stroller accessible. (Reservations begin May 2.)

17 Scout Discovery Table: Bird ID/Flyways

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(All Ages) Learn how to identify birds and discover the flyways they use during migration. This table helps with the following badge requirements: **Wolves- Birds** (elective 13d), **Webelos- Outdoor Group: Naturalist #3-#5, and Juniors-** Let's Get Outdoors: Wildlife #3, #8. (No reservations are required.)

18 Feather Guard for the Birds

Sunday 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
(Ages 10 and up) Do you have a window which the birds fly into and sometimes hurt or kill themselves? Then this program is for you. You will learn why some birds have these accidents and how to make feather guards for the outside of your problem windows. You will need to know the vertical measurement (an approximate will work) of the window. (Reservations begin May 2.)

28 Going Batty?

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 9 and up) Come find out the great features of a cave community and why everything in the cave is extremely unique. Dress in long pants/shirts and clothes you don't mind getting dirty. (Reservations begin May 14.)

SHOOTING RANGE & TRAINING CENTER INFORMATION

For reservations, call (636) 441-4554

Youth Hunter Education Day Camp

(Ages 11-15) This camp is a great way to introduce a youth to the exciting sport of hunting! The program will include the Missouri Hunter Education Course, shooting instructions with .22 cal. rifles, 20 gauge shotguns, black powder rifles and archery instruction. The camp will also cover wildlife management needs for Missouri game species. Class maximum is 25 students. **\$50 Advanced Registration Required.** *Check or money order only made payable to the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation.*

**The Youth Hunter Education Day Camp
will be held at the following St. Louis Region
Missouri Dept. of Conservation Ranges:**

AUGUST A. BUSCH RANGE
June 9 - June 13
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

JAY HENGES RANGE

June 16 – June 20
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

BUSCH AREA

For reservations, call (636) 441 - 4554

3 Lewis Trail Hike

Saturday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(Adults) There is nothing like a spring hike on the Lewis Trail. Join us for this 8.2 mile hike and take in the beauty of the wildflowers while being serenaded by the migrating songbirds. (Reservations begin April 18.)

6 Walk on the Wild(flower) Side

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
& 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
(Ages 3-6) We're gonna get wild about wildflowers! Make your own mini wildflower field guide (just for preschoolers). Once you have a field guide, you have to learn to use it, so we will take a walk and put them to good use. (Reservations begin April 22.)

10&25 Discovery Table: Mammals

Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
(All Ages) You might not see them in the wild, but you can learn about them at our discovery table. See mounts, hides, skulls and tracks of Missouri's mammals. (No reservations required.)

13 Snakes & Lizards Yucky or Cool?

Tuesday 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) How many "poisonous" snakes are there in Missouri? Can a lizard grow a new tail? Find out the answers as you learn about the snakes and lizards that live in Missouri. A hike to look for snakes and lizards is included. (Reservations begin April 29.)

17 Kids Fishing Fair

Saturday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(Ages 1-15) Let us help you teach your kids to fish! Visit the booths to learn the ins and outs of fishing and then give them the chance to catch a fish. Bring your own fishing equipment and bait. A limited number of loaner poles will be available. (No reservations required.)

21 Berry Smudges & Leaf Prints

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) Have you ever wondered how people painted, wrote or drew before pencils, pens and crayons? Their art supplies came from nature and so will ours! (Reservations begin May 7.)

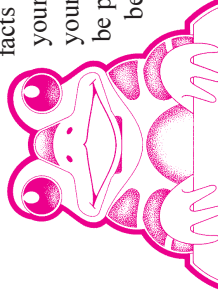
23 Tree ID Hike

Friday 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
(All Ages)

Get to know some of our more common trees, up close and personal. (Reservations begin May 9.)

30 Froggy Walk

Friday 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
(All Ages) Feeling froggy? Discover all the fascinating facts about frogs and toads and try your hand at becoming one yourself! Bring a flashlight and be prepared to get muddy because we'll go on a catch-and-release frog hunt. (Reservations begin May 16.)



31 Summer Wildflowers

Saturday 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Adults) Discover what is blooming during the summer! Enjoy a slide show to get you ready to identify what is out there, then we will go exploring to find the real thing. (Reservations begin May 16.)

POWDER VALLEY

For reservations, call (314) 301 - 1500

3 Scout Discovery Table Brownie Triple Try-Its

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(All Ages) Brownies can complete portions of What's Out There?: Animals #3 and #5, Eco-explorer #1 and Outdoor Adventurer #5. All are welcome and encouraged. Check it out! (No reservations necessary.)

5 Hiking Hickory Ridge Trail

Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) Let's hike this beautiful trail to see what birds, wildflowers and trees we can identify. (Reservations begin April 21.)

10 Resident Artisan Workshops

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. (Ages 7-15)
Saturday 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. (Adults)
Join Patricia and Lee Schulte to learn how to press and dry flowers and herbs. (Reservations begin April 25.)

14 Wild Edibles

Wednesday 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
(All Ages) Are you really going to eat that? Join us as we discuss wild edibles. We will spend part of the time inside and outside, so please dress for the weather. Frontiers Connection: Activity #129. (Reservations begin April 30.)

17 Lewis & Clark: Preparing for the Journey

Saturday 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(Ages 7-16) The Corps of Discovery had to prepare for the journey into unknown territory. Try your hand at making some of the essentials of life in the 1800s. (Reservations begin May 2.)

17&24 Identification of Common Trees of Missouri

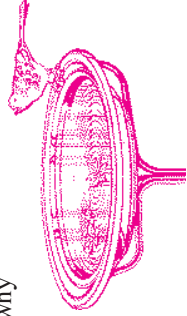
Saturday 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Adults) Walk one of the trails and identify our common trees. (Reservations begin May 2 and May 9, respectively.)

19 Hiking Broken Ridge Trail

Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) Let's hike this beautiful trail to see what birds, wildflowers and trees we can identify. (Reservations begin May 5.)

22 Beginning Birding!!!

Thursday 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) Join us to learn why birding is the fastest-growing sport. We'll make binoculars and hike a trail too! (Reservations begin May 8.)



29 Rocking Chair Story Time

Thursday 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
& 1 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
(All Ages) Come enjoy a fun-packed time of stories, puppets and surprises galore! (No reservations required.)

HOMESCHOOL PROGRAM

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

29 Frog-ology

Thursday 10:30 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 3 - 6) How do frogs grow? Where do they live? What do they eat? Discover the answer to these and other questions by exploring the world of frogs.
(Ages 7 - 12) What makes a frog a frog? We'll take a virtual tour of a frog dissection and check out the pond to learn about frog habitat. (Reservations begin May 15.)

30 Friday Night Ecology

Friday 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
(Ages 9 - 10) Join us for an evening of ecological exploration and adventure through crafts, games and activities. (Reservations begin May 16.)